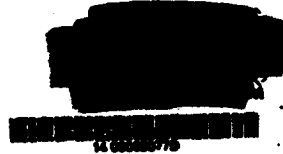


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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

15 December 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROLAND INLOW, CHAIRMAN, COMIREX

SUBJECT: Budget Justification

With the presentation of the President's FY 1977 Budget to the Congress, the NRO will be required to develop budget justification for the first time which relates substantive intelligence to the requirements established by the USIB for the NRP. The committees recognize that the NRO neither develops collection requirements nor in the past has defended them. However, the defense of the NRP must ultimately rest on the validity of those requirements.

I solicit your assistance in preparing the NRP budget justification by providing to us two levels of analysis which address the imagery collection requirements against which NRP systems are tasked. The first of these should relate substantive intelligence production to the categories of imagery needed and the frequency and priority structure of COMIREX objective satisfaction goals. This would be used as a general introduction to our budget justification.

The second analysis should treat each system in the NRP and relate that system, based on the ExCom-approved schedule, to the specific satisfaction of COMIREX requirements in defense of the FY 1977 President's Budget.

Our FY 1977 budget justification must be complete by 8 January for review by the IC Staff and ASD(I), and submission to the Congress by 1 February. I recognize that this request for your support to meet a 5 January milestone creates a significant workload at this time of the year. However, in the presence of greatly increased Congressional scrutiny, I am convinced that it is in our mutual best interest to be as responsive and prompt as possible in satisfying their expressed desires.

It might be appropriate for you to transmit your analysis of COMIREX objective goals to the DNRO over the signature of the Chairman of USIB. We plan to incorporate system collection performance into the individual system descriptions.

The Director of the NRO Staff will discuss this with you within the several days.

  
Charles W. Cook

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